

## Message Text

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EXDIS-HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE FOR SECDEF

E.O. 11652, GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: MORNING SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT REPORTS

### 1. SYRIAN VISIONS OF SOVIET INVOLVEMENT IN LEBANON

KING HUSSEIN BRIEFED AMBASSADOR PICKERING JULY 15 ON HIS  
CONVERSATION WITH PRESIDENT ASAD. ACCORDING TO THE KING:

--DURING THE VISIT TO MOSCOW OF SYRIAN FOREIGN MINISTER  
KHADDAM, THE SOVIETS THREATENED THE SYRIANS, INSISTING  
UPON THEIR WITHDRAWAL FROM LEBANON.

--THE SOVIETS SEEM DETERMINED TO TURN LEBANON INTO  
ANOTHER ANGOLA.

--SOVIET ARMS ARE REACHING THE PALESTINIANS AND THE  
LEBANESE LEFT VIA EAST GERMANY, IRAQ AND EGYPT.

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MINISTER OF COURT KHAMMASH LATER TOLD THE AMBASSADOR THAT THE KING HOPED THE US WILL TRY TO DISCOURAGE THE SAUDIS AND THE EGYPTIANS FROM COOPERATING WITTINGLY OR UNWITTINGLY WITH SOVIET EFFORTS TO EXPAND THE CONFLICT.  
(SECRET) AMMAN 3721 (EXDIS), 7/15.)

2. ITALY: SOCIALISTS MAY PUT ON A NEW FACE

THE PSI CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEETING HAS BEEN MARKED BY THE DEFECTION OF KEY DEMARTINO SUPPORTERS AND THE EMERGENCE OF BETTINO CRAXI AS A LEADING CONTENDER FOR PARTY SECRETARY. EMBASSY ROME NOTES THAT CRAXI'S CANDIDACY IS FAVORED BY:

--SUPPORT FROM YOUNGER PARTY MEMBERS OF ALL FACTIONS, INCLUDING THE LEFT, WHO WANT A NEW GENERATION OF LEADERSHIP;

--HIS ACCEPTABILITY TO THE OLD GUARD, TO WHOM HE REPRESENTS A COMFORTING CONTINUITY AS ONE WHO HAS WORKED HIS WAY THROUGH THE RANKS; AND

--THE BACKING OF THE MANCINI GROUP, WHICH IS SKILLFULLY OPPOSING DEMARTINO AND GIOLITTI, THE CANDIDATE OF THE LEFT.

EMBASSY COMMENT: CRAXI'S CANDIDACY IS IN ITSELF A POSITIVE DEVELOPMENT. HE HAS NO ILLUSIONS ABOUT THE PSI AND, AMONG THE EMERGING NEW LEADERS, IS THE ONE MOST DISPOSED TO WORK WITH THE DC. HOWEVER, IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN HOW MUCH FREEDOM OF ACTION HE WOULD HAVE TO CHANGE THE PSI'S POSITIONS.  
(CONFIDENTIAL) ROME 11445, 7/15.)

3. NATO URGES RESTRAINT ON "SISMIK"

SECRETARY GENERAL LUNS MADE A DEMARCHE TO TURKISH CHARGE ALP URGING TURKEY TO EXERCISE EXTREME CAUTION IN CONNECTION WITH THE SAILING OF THE "SISMIK." AMBASSADOR STRAUZ-HUPE NOTES THAT LUNS TOLD A GROUP OF PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES JULY 15 THAT:

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--HE TOOK THE INITIATIVE BECAUSE BITSIOS HAD INFORMED HIM THAT THE GOG WAS COMMITTED TO PREVENT THE "SISMIK" FROM ENTERING GREEK TERRITORIAL WATERS.

--ALP APPEARED TO RECOGNIZE THE VALIDITY OF LUNS' DEMARCHE AND PROMISED TO ADVISE ANKARA OF IT.

AMBASSADOR'S COMMENT: NATO HAS DONE WHAT IT SHOULD THROUGH BILATERAL CHANNELS. THE OTHER PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT AGREED WITH ME THAT THE NATO COUNCIL SHOULD NOT MEET TO DISCUSS THE QUESTION, SINCE THAT WOULD LIKELY CAUSE THE TURKS TO HARDEN THEIR POSITION. (CONFIDENTIAL) USNATO 3981 (LIMDIS), 7/15.)

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4. ZIMBABWE: ANC CAUGHT IN THE MIDDLE

WEBSTER MUTAMBA, PERSONAL ASSISTANT TO ANC LEADER MUZOREWA, TOLD EMBASSY MAPUTO THAT NKOMO HAS REFUSED TO REJOIN THE ANC BECAUSE:

--HE HARBORS THE VAIN BELIEF HE CAN PERSUADE SMITH TO NEGOTIATE WITH HIM.

--KAUNDA HAS ALREADY MADE UP HIS MIND TO SUPPORT NKOMO AS ZIMBABWE'S FIRST AFRICAN PRESIDENT AND TO GIVE HIM THE EXTRA SUPPORT NEEDED TO STRENGTHEN HIS POSITION.

MUTAMBA ALSO NOTED THAT THE ANC MISTRUSTS MACHEL'S PREOCCUPATION WITH ARMED STRUGGLE AND IDEOLOGICAL INDOCTRINATION. THE "FREIMO EXPERIMENT" WOULD NOT WORK IN ZIMBABWE.

EMBASSY COMMENT: THE ANC IS CAUGHT IN THE MIDDLE AS KAUNDA AND MACHEL JOCKEY TO ADVANCE A SUCCESSOR TO SMITH. THOUGH PLEASED WITH MOZAMBIQUE'S ASSISTANCE, ZIMBABWEAN LEADERS HAVE RESERVATIONS ABOUT MACHEL. YET, WHILE MORE COMFORTABLE WITH ZAMBIA'S POLITICAL SYSTEM, THEY ARE UNHAPPY WITH KAUNDA'S SUPPORT OF NKOMO. (CONFIDENTIAL) MAPUTO 800, 7/14.) KISSINGER

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